REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments to the claims be entered in order to avoid this application incurring a surcharge for the presence of one or more multiple dependent claims and to improve clarity.

Respectfully submitted,

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By S. A. Bent, Reg #29768

for Michele M. Simkin
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 34,717

FOLEY & LARDNER
3000 K Street, N. W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20007-5109
Telephone: (202) 672-5414
Facsimile: (202 672-5399

MARKED UP CLAIMS

1. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a polypeptide selected from any one of:

(a) SEQ ID Nos: 15 to 26;

(b) an immunogenic fragment comprising at least 12 consecutive amino acids from a polypeptide of (a); and

(c) a polypeptide of (a) or (b) which has been modified without loss of immunogenicity, wherein said modified polypeptide is at least 75% identical in amino acid sequence to the corresponding polypeptide of (a) or (b).

2. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence selected from any of:

(a) SEQ ID Nos: 2 to 13;

(b) a sequence which encodes a polypeptide encoded by any one of SEQ ID Nos: 2 to 13;

(c) a sequence comprising at least 38 consecutive nucleotides from any one of the nucleic acid sequences of (a) and (b); and

(d) a sequence which encodes a polypeptide which is at least 75% identical in amino acid sequence to any one of the polypeptides encoded by SEQ ID Nos: 2 to 13.

3. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence which is anti-sense to the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1~~ or 2~~.

4. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a fusion protein, said fusion protein comprising a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 and a second polypeptide.

5. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 4 wherein the second polypeptide is a heterologous signal peptide.

6. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 4 wherein the second polypeptide has adjuvant activity.

7. A nucleic acid molecule according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6,~~ claim 1, operatively linked to one or more expression control sequences.

8. A vaccine comprising a vaccine vector and at least one first nucleic acid selected from any of:

(i) SEQ ID Nos: 1 to 13;

(ii) a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a polypeptide encoded by any one of SEQ ID Nos: 1 to 13;

(iii) a nucleic acid sequence comprising at least 38 consecutive nucleotides from any one of the nucleic acid sequences of (i) and (ii);

(iv) a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a polypeptide which is at least 75% identical in amino acid sequence to the polypeptide encoded by any one of SEQ ID Nos: 1 to 13;

(v) a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a polypeptide whose sequence is set forth in any one of SEQ ID Nos: 14 to 26;

(vi) a nucleic acid sequence which encodes an immunogenic fragment comprising at least 12 consecutive amino acids from any one of SEQ ID Nos: 14 to 26; and

(vii) a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a polypeptide as defined in (i) to (v) or an immunogenic fragment as defined in (vi) which has been modified without loss of immunogenicity, wherein said modified polypeptide or fragment is at least 75% identical in amino acid sequence to the corresponding polypeptide of (i) to (v) or the corresponding fragment of (vi);

wherein each first nucleic acid is capable of being ~~expressed and wherein the vaccine optionally comprises a second nucleic acid encoding and capable of expressing an additional polypeptide which enhances the immune~~ expressed. ~~response to the polypeptide expressed by the first nucleic acid.~~

9. A vaccine comprising a vaccine vector and at least one first nucleic acid encoding a fusion protein, wherein the fusion protein comprises:

(a) a first polypeptide selected from any of:

(i) a polypeptide encoded by any one of SEQ ID Nos: 1 to 13;

(ii) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence comprising at least 38 consecutive nucleotides from any one of SEQ ID Nos: 1 to 13;

(iii) a polypeptide which is at least 75% identical in amino acid sequence to the polypeptide encoded by any one of SEQ ID Nos: 1 to 13;

(iv) a polypeptide whose sequence is set forth in any one of SEQ ID Nos: 14 to 26;

(v) an immunogenic fragment comprising at least 12 consecutive amino acids from any one of SEQ ID Nos: 14 to 26; and

(vi) a polypeptide as defined in (i) to (iv) or an immunogenic fragment as defined in (v) which has been modified without loss of immunogenicity, wherein said modified polypeptide or fragment is at least 75% identical in amino acid sequence to the corresponding polypeptide of (i) to (iv) or the corresponding fragment of (v); and

(b) a second polypeptide;

wherein each first nucleic acid is capable of being ~~expressed and wherein the vaccine optionally comprises a second nucleic acid encoding and capable of expressing an additional polypeptide which enhances the immune~~ expressed.

~~response to the first polypeptide.~~

10. The vaccine of claim 9 wherein the second polypeptide is a heterologous signal peptide.

11. The vaccine of claim 9 wherein the second polypeptide has adjuvant activity.

12. The vaccine of any one of ~~claims 8 to 11 wherein~~claim 8 wherein each first nucleic acid is operatively linked to one or more expression control sequences.

13. A vaccine~~comprising at least one first nucleic acid~~ according to ~~any one of claims 1, 2, and 4 to 7 and a vaccine vector~~claim 8 wherein each first nucleic acid is expressed as a polypeptide, and wherein the vaccine~~optionally comprising~~comprises a second nucleic acid encoding an additional polypeptide which enhances the immune response to the polypeptide expressed by ~~said~~the first nucleic acid.

14. The vaccine ~~of any one of claims 8 to~~according to claim 13 wherein the second nucleic acid encodes an additional *Chlamydia* polypeptide.

15. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a nucleic acid according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a vaccine according to ~~any one of claims 8 to 14~~claim 8 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

17. A unicellular host transformed with the nucleic acid molecule of claim 7.

18. An isolated nucleic acid probe of 5 to 100 nucleotides which hybridizes under stringent conditions to any one of nucleic acid molecules of SEQ ID Nos: 2 to 13, or to a complementary or anti-sense sequence of said nucleic acid molecule.

19. An isolated primer of 10 to 40 nucleotides which hybridizes under stringent conditions to any one of nucleic acid molecules of SEQ ID Nos: 2 to 13, or to a complementary or anti-sense sequence of said nucleic acid molecule.

20. A polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence according to ~~any one of claims 1, 2 and 4 to 7.~~claim 2.

21. A polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from any one of:

(a) SEQ ID Nos: 15 to 26;

(b) an immunogenic fragment comprising at least 12 consecutive amino acids from a polypeptide of (a); and

(c) a polypeptide of (a) or (b) which has been modified without loss of immunogenicity, wherein said modified polypeptide is at least 75% identical in amino acid sequence to the corresponding polypeptide of (a) or (b).

22. A fusion protein comprising a polypeptide of claim~~20 or~~ 21 and a second polypeptide.

23. The fusion protein of claim 22 wherein the second polypeptide is a heterologous signal peptide.

24. The fusion protein of claim 22 wherein the second polypeptide has adjuvant activity.

25. A method for producing a polypeptide of claim ~~20 or 21, or a fusion protein of any one of claims 22 to 24,~~ comprising the step of culturing a unicellular host transformed with a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide of claim ~~17.~~21.

26. An antibody against the polypeptide of claim ~~20 or 21, or against a fusion protein of any one of claims 22 to 24.~~21.

27. A vaccine comprising at least one first polypeptide selected from any one of:

(i) a polypeptide encoded by any one of SEQ ID Nos: 1 to 13;

(ii) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence comprising at least 38 consecutive nucleotides from any one of SEQ ID Nos: 1 to 13;

(iii) a polypeptide which is at least 75% identical in amino acid sequence to the polypeptide encoded by any one of SEQ ID Nos: 1 to 13;

(iv) a polypeptide whose sequence is set forth in any one of SEQ ID Nos: 14 to 26;

(v) an immunogenic fragment comprising at least 12 consecutive amino acids from any one of SEQ ID Nos: 14 to 26; and

(vi) a polypeptide as defined in (i) to (iv) or an immunogenic fragment as defined in (v) which has been modified without loss of immunogenicity, wherein said modified polypeptide or fragment is at least 75% identical in amino acid sequence to the corresponding polypeptide of (i) to (iv) or the corresponding fragment of ~~(v);~~(v).

~~wherein the vaccine optionally comprises an additional polypeptide which enhances the immune response to the first polypeptide.~~

28. A vaccine comprising at least one fusion protein, wherein the fusion protein comprises:

(a) a first polypeptide selected from any of:

(i) a polypeptide encoded by any one of SEQ ID Nos: 1 to 13;

(ii) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence comprising at least 38 consecutive nucleotides from any one of SEQ ID Nos: 1 to 13;

~~(iii) a~~(iii) a polypeptide which is at least 75% identical in amino acid sequence to the polypeptide encoded by any one of SEQ ID Nos: 1 to 13;

(iv) a polypeptide whose sequence is set forth in any one of SEQ ID Nos: 14 to 26;

(v) an immunogenic fragment comprising at least 12 consecutive amino acids from any one of SEQ ID Nos: 14 to 26; and

(vi) a polypeptide as defined in (i) to (iv) or an immunogenic fragment as defined in (v) which has been modified without loss of immunogenicity, wherein said modified polypeptide or fragment is at least 75% identical in amino acid sequence to the corresponding polypeptide of (i) to (iv) or the corresponding fragment of (v); and

(b) a second~~polypeptide;~~

~~wherein the vaccine optionally comprises an additional polypeptide which enhances the immune response to the first~~ polypeptide.

29. The vaccine of claim 28 wherein the second polypeptide is a heterologous signal peptide.

30. The vaccine of claim 28 wherein the second polypeptide has adjuvant activity.

31. A vaccine comprising at least one first polypeptide according to ~~any one of claims 20 to 24, optionally~~

~~comprising~~claim 20 and an additional polypeptide which enhances the immune response to the first polypeptide.

32. The vaccine of ~~any one of claims 27 to~~claim 31 wherein the additional polypeptide comprises a *Chlamydia* polypeptide.

33. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polypeptide according to ~~any one of claims~~claim 20~~to 24~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

34. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a vaccine according to ~~any one of claims~~claim 27~~to 32~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

35. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody according to claim 26 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

36. A method for preventing or treating *Chlamydia* infection ~~using:~~comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of:

~~(a) the nucleic acid of any one of claims 1 to 7;~~
~~(b) the vaccine of any one of claims 8 to 14 and 27 to 32;~~ (a) a nucleic acid according to claim 2;

(b) a vaccine comprising a vaccine vector and at least one first nucleic acid according to claim 2;

~~(c) the~~ (c) a pharmaceutical composition ~~of any one of claims 15, 16 and 33 to 35;~~comprising a nucleic acid according to claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier;

~~(d) the polypeptide of claim 20 or 21, or a fusion protein of any one of claims 22 to 24; or~~

~~(c) the antibody of claim 26.~~ (d) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid according to claim 2; or

(e) an antibody against a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid according to claim 2.

37. A method of detecting *Chlamydia* infection comprising the step of assaying a body fluid of a mammal to be tested, with a component selected from any one of:

~~(a) the nucleic acid of any one of claims 1 to 7;~~
~~(b) the polypeptide of claim 20 or 21, or a fusion protein of any one of claims 22 to 24; and~~
~~(c) the antibody of claim 26.~~

(a) a nucleic acid according to claim 2;

(b) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid according to claim 2; and

(c) an antibody against a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid according to claim 2.

38. A diagnostic kit comprising instructions for use and a component selected from any one of:

~~(a) the nucleic acid of any one of claims 1 to 7;~~
~~(b) the polypeptide of claim 20 or 21, or a fusion protein of any one of claims 22 to 24; and~~
~~(c) the antibody of claim 26.~~

(a) a nucleic acid according to claim 2;

(b) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid according to claim 2; and

(c) an antibody against a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid according to claim 2.

39. A method for identifying a polypeptide of claim 20~~or 21, or a fusion protein of any one of claims 22 to 24~~ which

induces an immune response effective to prevent or lessen the severity of *Chlamydia* infection in a mammal previously immunized with polypeptide, comprising the steps of:

(a) immunizing a mouse with the polypeptide ~~or fusion protein;~~of claim 20; and

(b) inoculating the immunized mouse with *Chlamydia;* wherein the polypeptide or fusion protein which prevents or lessens the severity of *Chlamydia* infection in the immunized mouse compared to a non-immunized control mouse is identified.